

ready gained some knowledge of the elements of education—in fact, the more studious, industrious, and advanced of our school population. I think that the experiment had better be tried on the grammar schools before we attempt to engraft it upon the common schools. I said in my speech on the Address that I should rejoice if this scheme were practicable in regard to common schools. The difficulty is that I do not see its practicability; I do not see what knowledge you can give the teachers as a mass which will be of any consequence; I do not see how the teacher can impart that knowledge, after teaching reading, writing, and arithmetic to his scholars. I am afraid that while grasping at the shadow we may, to a large extent, lose the substance—that while attempting to go higher we may lose our balance, and fall away from that state in which we are. I trust that no attempt will be made to force the new branches prematurely on the country.

With reference to County Inspectors I speak with hesitation. Speaking theoretically, I think that county inspectorship would be a very desirable thing—that is, if you get a man with the necessary qualifications. I think such a man would be calculated to introduce a better average, a higher standard among the whole of the common schools of his county; but I fear that such a man can hardly be obtained at the rates proposed. I am not pressed, I may add, in the slightest degree by the question of money, because when I look at the total expenditure from local and general sources, and at the additional amount required—the hon. member for South Simcoe (Mr. Ferguson) says \$27,000—I am prepared to say that if you can get a substantial improvement I do care nothing about the \$27,000. All I want to see is that we shall not spend \$27,000 for naught. I fear that at the proposed rates you cannot get a man who will make that improvement in the inspectorship which is desirable. As far as I have been able to learn, the local Superintendents are obtained at a very moderate emolument, because, being men of some degree of leisure, and the inspection in a township not taking up a great deal of their time, it is accomplished consistently with the discharge of their other duties, while it forms some addition to their income. One can thoroughly understand that; but if you are going to have official inspection of large numbers of schools, I am afraid that the sum proposed to be given for the County Inspectors will not produce the article required. I am afraid that you will not get the man for the money. There is, indeed, a danger of positive injury; because if you get a County Inspector of an inferior grade you will inflict a very serious blow on the whole district. Again, in reference to the terms on which it is proposed the Inspector should be paid—I cannot